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USGS Internship Program For Graduate Students 2026

Description

As a USGS graduate intern, you'll be placed in a specific discipline based on your interests and qualifications. You'll collaborate with experienced researchers on projects related to:

- **Geology:** Conduct field studies, analyze rock samples, map geological formations, and contribute to understanding Earth's history and resources.
- **Hydrology:** Monitor water resources, assess flood risks, model surface and groundwater flow, and support sustainable water management.
- **Biology:** Study ecosystems, assess biological diversity, investigate invasive species, and contribute to environmental conservation efforts.
- **Cartography & Geospatial Sciences:** Develop maps, analyze satellite imagery, create geographic information systems (GIS) products, and support data visualizations.
- **Geophysics:** Study earthquakes, volcanoes, and Earth's magnetic field, evaluate geologic hazards, and contribute to geophysical modeling.
- **Climate Change:** Analyze climate data, model climate scenarios, assess impacts on ecosystems and water resources, and support climate adaptation strategies.

Responsibilities

- Assist with assigned projects under the guidance of experienced scientists and mentors.
- Conduct research, collect data in the field or lab, and analyze results relevant to your internship area.
- Prepare reports, participate in scientific presentations, and contribute to publications.
- Participate in meetings, trainings, and potential fieldwork depending on the program.
- Contribute to maintaining a professional and collaborative work environment.
- Specific tasks will vary depending on the chosen discipline and program focus.

Qualifications

- Currently enrolled in a **graduate program** in geology, hydrology, biology, cartography, geophysics, environmental science, or a related field.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 required.
- Strong science-based background and interest in Earth science research.
- Excellent communication, analytical, and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, with additional software skills preferred depending on the program (e.g., GIS, modeling software).

Hiring organization
USGS

Employment Type
Intern

Duration of employment
6 Months

Industry
Research Services

Job Location
Reston, Virginia, United States,
20191, Reston, Virginia, United States

Working Hours
8

Base Salary
10

Date posted
February 24, 2026

Valid through
24.02.2027

- U.S. citizenship or valid work authorization required.

Experience

- Prior research experience or relevant work experience preferred, but not required.
- Strong academic performance demonstrates your ability to excel in research.

Skills

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to manage time effectively and meet deadlines.
- Strong research and data analysis skills.
- Teamwork and collaboration skills.
- Adaptability and willingness to learn new technologies and methodologies.

Job Benefits

- Gain valuable hands-on research experience working alongside leading scientists at a renowned federal agency.
- Network with professionals across diverse disciplines and build your professional network.
- Enhance your resume and career prospects in the field of Earth science research and related industries.
- Earn a competitive hourly wage and potential relocation assistance (depending on program).
- Contribute to impactful research projects with real-world implications for society and the environment.

How To Apply

- Search for “Graduate Internship” opportunities and filter by location and discipline of interest.
- Create a profile and apply to the positions that match your qualifications.
- Submit your resume, cover letter, transcripts, and any other required documents.
- Internship opportunities vary in duration and focus throughout the year.
- We encourage applications from diverse students with varied backgrounds and experiences.
- USGS is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity in its workforce.